

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides methods of reclaiming and recycling the polymer-contaminated solvent that was used in the developing process for the preparation of relief plates crosslinked by photopolymerization. The solvent of the present system contains alkyl esters, alone or in combination with co-solvents and/or non-solvents, as washout solvents for the unpolymerized material in the printing plates to develop a relief image and a method for developing printing plates. The process comprises transferring the contaminated solvent, from a plate processor or a dirty holding tank, to a centrifuge, and centrifuging the contaminated solvent to remove the polymer. The reclaimed solvent can be transfer directly back to the plate processor or to a clean holding tank.

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